

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

*Be Ye Humane.*—Doctor Huntington, in the closing paragraphs of his presidential address, says: "... those interested in medicine, as teachers or students, should be admonished regarding a sentiment which is of exceeding import and finds expression in the command, *Be ye humane*. With propriety these words, which suggest the spirit and the substance of the humanities, might be written upon the portals of every school and hospital." ...

*A Secretary's Views on Dues.*—In view of the fact that membership dues in most of our county societies are payable in advance, it would seem rational to suppose that members would be only too glad to remit the amount of their indebtedness immediately upon receipt of their society's bill. Nevertheless, getting members to pay their dues has been for many years the most arduous task of the county society secretaries. The San Francisco County Medical Society, up to a little over two years ago, employed a regular collector, who made it his business to stir up the careless and hold-back variety until the dues were paid, and he pocketed 20 per cent as his fee. ...

*Minutes of the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of California, Forty-Second Annual Meeting.*—The House of Delegates was called to order at 8:45 p. m., April 16, 1912, Del Monte, by the president, Doctor Huntington. ...

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*Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section.*—C. F. Welty presented the following request from the San Francisco County Society, which was referred to the Reference Committee:

San Francisco, Cal., March 16, 1912.

To the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of California.

Gentlemen—The Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section of the San Francisco County Medical Society, respectfully request that you create a section, to be known as the "Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Section of the Medical Society of the State of California."

Respectfully submitted,

William F. Blake, *Chairman*.

Approved by San Francisco County Medical Society.

René Bine, *Secretary*.

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*Change in Medical Law.*—The following was introduced by George H. Kress and referred to the Reference Committee:

April 12, 1912.

To the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of California.

Gentlemen—The Board of Councilors of the Los Angeles County Medical Association respectfully request that the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of California take steps at the Del Monte meeting to consider a plan of action on the following propositions:

1. A state law in California, modeled somewhat after the California Dental and Pharmacy laws whereby an annual tax of two dollars would be levied on all licensed practitioners of the healing art in California, the money so raised from the said tax to be deposited in the State of

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†This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

### News

"Three members of the asserted illegal operations ring, exposed several months ago, obtained new trials by a ruling on file today in District Court of Appeal. The defendants were James Beggs, M. D., and Jesse C. Ross, M. D., convicted on five counts of conspiracy and performing illegal operations, and Valentine St. John, M. D. William A. Byrne, former special agent for the State Board of Medical Examiners, lost his appeal on four counts, while the fifth was dismissed as defective. The appeal of another defendant, R. L. Rankin, was dismissed recently at his own request. In the cases reversed Justice Marshall F. McComb, writing the opinion, based it upon the law that a conviction cannot be sustained on the testimony of an accomplice unless corroborated by other evidence." (Los Angeles *Herald-Express*, April 24, 1937.)

"Because he assertedly attempted to 'cash in' on the current educational campaign against venereal diseases, Samuel Fendell, forty-eight, health lecturer, today faced a prison term for alleged violation of the State Anti-Birth Control Statute. Constable Donald Hall signed the complaint against Fendell after he attended a Maxwell lecture in which Fendell collected cash for books listing places where 'a safe method of marriage sex relations might be purchased.' Officers said Fendell, before his lecture, passed out cards, proclaiming he would expose the white slave traffic." (Sacramento *Union*, May 6, 1937.)

"Gland products prescribed under the guise of 'food capsules' are illegal, according to a ruling by Attorney-General U. S. Webb, who was asked to rule on the capsules by Dr. C. B. Pinkham, Secretary of the State Board of Medical Examiners, because he said certain California chiropractors were prescribing them as food. Webb ruled them illegal under sections of the State law, saying that medicine may be prescribed only by registered physicians." (Oakland *Tribune*, May 3, 1937.)

"Free on \$3,000 bail, Mrs. Laura Miner, thirty-eight, who surrendered today in Justice Phil Smith's court, today was planning a defense to charges of murder preferred against her yesterday, as the result of the alleged operation death of Mrs. Loretta Hazel Reese, twenty-one, wife of a naval sailor. Warrant for the woman's arrest called for no bail, but it was pointed out to Smith by defense counsel that the woman is the mother of two children, has lived in San Diego for five years, and previously, when charged with merely performing an illegal operation, did not flee when out on \$1,000 bail. ... Mrs. Reese died Wednesday night. She had been in the county hospital since April 21. ... An autopsy performed yesterday by Dr. F. E. Toomey, Coroner's Surgeon, showed that Mrs. Reese's death was caused by an infection resulting from an operation, it was reported." (San Diego *Tribune*, April 30, 1937.)

"'Lack of evidence' was the reason given by Police Judge Joseph A. Kennedy for the dismissal of charges against Dr. J. C. Coleman, negro physician and surgeon, that he had 'conspired to commit an illegal operation' on Mary Lombard, who died some weeks ago. Charges had been brought against Coleman by Raymond Lombard of 1391 Twenty-first Street, father of the 19-year-old girl. James Simpson, 902 Linden Street, a witness, refused to testify on grounds that he might incriminate himself." (Oakland *Post-Inquirer*, April 26, 1937.)

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†The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.